

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 9-11, and 17-19 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-9, and 19-20 have been allowed. Claims 11-14, and 17 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated June 3, 2005, the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), where the Examiner indicates that the hook must be shown or the feature cancelled from the claims. A new drawing Figure is submitted with this Amendment illustrating the hook, and corresponding description has been added in the specification. In addition, the specification was objected to where the Examiner indicated that the specification should be amended to incorporate the language of the claim directed to the self-locking of the cross brace with the angled member. The specification has been amended to include the language of the claims. Claims 1-20 stand objected to and the Examiner suggests using "adapted to be engaged" to clarify that the shelf is not considered a positive element of the invention sought to be patented. The independent claims have been amended to adopt the suggestion made by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Meyer (U.S. Patent No. 5,381,738). It is submitted that claim 10 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 10 now recites that the bracket includes a plurality of elongate interchangeable cross braces of different ornamental appearances for interchangeably being engaged with respect to the angled member, each cross brace interchangeably extending between the first and second elongate portions when engaged within the opposing apertures formed in the enlarged portions of the angled member for releasibly receiving the interchangeable cross brace. It is submitted that the Meyer reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest a bracket having a plurality of different ornamental elongate interchangeable cross braces to be interchangeably engaged with respect to the angled member. The

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet(s) of drawing includes new Fig. 13 . This sheet, which includes Fig. 13, is a new drawing sheet.

Attachment: New Sheet(s)
Annotated Sheet(s) Showing Changes

Meyer reference teaches a single cross brace configuration 18, 20, and therefore does not anticipate, teach or suggest a plurality of elongate interchangeable cross braces of different contoured surface ornamental appearances for interchangeably being engaged with respect to each angled member, each cross brace adapted to interchangeably extend between the first and second elongate portions when engaged within the opposing apertures formed in the enlarged portions of the angled member. The Examiner asserts that the surface of the cross brace member of Meyer can receive any type of indicia for aesthetics, or advertisements; for example stickers, or labels. However, the Meyer reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest different contoured surface ornamental appearances defining the surfaces of interchangeable cross brace members in Meyer. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 10 and 15 is requested.

Claims 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer in view of Kluge (U.S. Patent No. 6,053,465). The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the bracket shown by Meyer with a hook on the cross brace as shown by Kluge to support an item from the cross brace and improve the utility of the device. It is submitted that claim 16 depends from claim 10 which has been amended to recite that the bracket includes a plurality of elongate interchangeable cross braces of different contoured surface ornamental appearances for interchangeably being engaged with respect to the angled member, where each cross brace is adapted to interchangeably extend between the first and second elongate portions when engaged within the opposing apertures formed in the enlarged portions of the angled member. It is submitted that the Meyer reference does not anticipate, teach or suggest this configuration as recited in claim 16 or as recited in claim 18, and the addition of the Kluge reference does not overcome this deficiency. The Kluge reference teaches a single piece angle bracket which is bent to form a triangular shaped bracket 25 defined by legs 22, 22a, and 22b with opposite ends 29, 30 of the single piece being located at a common corner of the triangular shape. A support 45 in the shape of a stamped sheet metal hook member 46 is connected to the cross brace 22b or hypotenuse of the triangular shaped bracket. The details of the connection between the hook member 46 and the cross brace can best seen in Figure 3 of the Kluge '465 reference. The addition of a hook to the cross

brace 18 of Meyer does not anticipate, teach or suggest the invention as now recited in claims 16 and 18, since neither reference anticipates, teaches or suggests a plurality of elongate interchangeable cross braces of different contoured surface ornamental appearances for interchangeably being engaged with respect to the angled member where each cross brace is adapted to interchangeably extend between the first and second elongate portions when engaged within the opposing apertures formed in the elongate end portions of the angled member. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 16, and 18 is requested.

Claims 1-9, and 19-20 are indicated as being allowed in the Office Action. Claims 11-14 and 17 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11 and 17 have been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is submitted that these amendments place claims 11-14 and 17 in suitable condition for allowance. Notification of the allowance of claims 11-14 and 17 is requested.

The specification has been objected to as requiring an amendment to incorporate the language of the claims directed to the self-locking of the cross brace with the angled member. Paragraph [0019] of the specification has been amended to insert in line 4 after "the angled member 16" --in a self-locking fashion--. Paragraph [0019], line 9 after "resilient return " to insert --in a self --interlocking fashion--, and paragraph [0019], line 10 after "releasibly holding the" and inserting -- complementary surfaces of--. Reconsideration of the Examiner's objection to the specification is requested.

The drawings were objected to as failing to illustrate the cross brace having a hook. New Figure 13 is submitted with this Amendment illustrating the cross brace defining a hook for supportingly hanging another article as recited in the claims.

The brief description of the drawings is also amended in the specification paragraph [0016] is amended to eliminate the word "and" at the end of the paragraph. Paragraph [0017] is amended at the end of the paragraph to delete the . and insert --; and

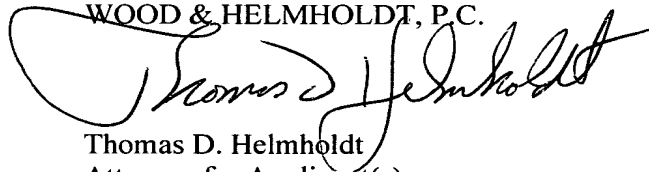
Figure 13 is a side elevation view of an elongate interchangeable cross brace with an ornamental appearance depicting a hook for supportingly hanging another article. Paragraph [0021] of the specification is also been amended at line 22 after "hook" to insert – as illustrated in Figure 13--.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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